



USS *Gualala*, AOG-28

Gualala: a river in California .

Builder: East Coast Shipyard, Bayonne, New Jersey
Length: 220' 6"
Beam: 37'
Draft: 17'
Displacement: 2,270 (fl)
Commissioned: 25 August 1944
Decommissioned: 29 March 1946
Disposition: Sold to Brazil.
Machinery: 720 hp diesel direct drive; single propeller
Top Speed: 10 knots
Complement: 62
Armament: 1 3"/50; 2 x 40mm; 3 x 20mm

HISTORY:

USS *Gualala* (AOG-28) was a Wautauga-Class Navy gasoline tanker that was manned by a Coast Guard crew. She was launched 3 June 1944, by the East Coast Ship Yard Inc., Bayonne, N.J., under a Maritime Commission contract; acquired by the Navy 19 August 1944; and commissioned 25 August 1944, Lt. Gerald T. Allworth, USCG, in command. After completing trials, *Gualala* sailed from New York 23 October 1944; touching at Guantanamo and Christobal, she transited the Panama Canal 8 November, proceeding from there to Biak Island via Bora Bora and New Guinea. Arriving 13 January 1945, *Gualala* sailed the seas between Biak, Morotai, and Mios Woendi serving as a fueling ship for fleet units. Departing Mios Woendi 4 June, she touched at Morotai before reaching Balikpapan, Borneo, the 16th. *Gualala* continued her fueling duties throughout the Philippines and at Saipan until 26 December 1945. when she sailed for San Francisco via Pearl Harbor. Arriving San Francisco 31 January 1946, *Gualala* remained there until decommissioning 29 March 1946, at the Kaiser Shipyard No. 2, Richmond, Calif. Her name was struck from the Navy List 1 May 1946, and she was transferred to the Maritime Commission 10 September 1946. The ship was subsequently sold to the Brazilian government, and renamed *Rijo*. *Gualala* received one battle star for World War II service.

Sources:

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.

Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft of World War II.* Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1982.
